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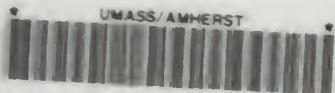
HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS RESEARCH, INC.

867 BOYLSTON STREET, SIXTH FLOOR

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

617-266-9219

617-266-9271



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Results of the State Legalization
Impact Assistance Grant Study/
Division of Substance Abuse Services

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
COLLECTION
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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
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Christopher Christian, M. A.

November, 1989

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The State Legalization Impact Assistance Grant (SLIAG) was developed to seek Federal reimbursement for the State expenditures resulting from the services provided to newly legalized immigrants that were served by public assistance, public education, and/or public health programs in fiscal years 1988 through 1989.

During November of 1989 the Division of Substance Abuse Services conducted a survey to examine the number of newly legalized immigrants served by substance abuse agencies and the state expenditures stemming from these services during FY88-FY89. The survey instrument (see figure 1) assessed legalization status of substance abuse clients by collecting information on clients' country of origin, legalization application, and social security numbers. The social security number was requested from those clients that claimed to be newly legalized immigrants. The number was used as verifiable evidence of their legalized status. The study targeted Hispanic clients, thus, surveys were issued in English and Spanish versions to all substance abuse service agencies that served 40 Hispanic clients or more in FY88. Directors or Assistant Directors of the agencies were contacted by letters and telephone to describe the project and to solicit their cooperation. They were asked to conduct the survey for a two week period (November 5 through November 18, 1989). After the allotted time the appropriate agency contacts were reached to assess the study's progress and to request that they return all completed survey forms. Results indicate the following:



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- * A total of 40 agencies were contacted to participate in the study.
- * Thirty-four agencies responded to the survey and 6 did not respond.
- * Of the 34 agencies that responded, 19 agencies served Latinos that were considered "eligible" for the study, six agencies did not serve Latinos during the two week period; and nine did not conduct the survey.
- * From the 19 agencies that completed survey forms, 23 Latinos had applied for legalization under the amnesty provisions of the Immigration Reform Control Act of 1986 and ten of these provided their social security number as verifiable evidence of their application for the legalization process.

The reasons that agencies reported for not completing the survey included 1) concerns over the sensitive information requested regarding immigration status and social security number; 2) the study's time constraints; and 3) not receiving the surveys by mail.

Table 1 portrays the number of Hispanic immigrants and their country of origin for all agencies that responded to the survey. The largest number of Hispanic immigrants allegedly come from the Dominican Republic (n=11), followed by El Salvador (n=8) and Guatemala (n=7). Five agencies obtained social security numbers as evidence of their clients' application for legalization. Table 2 shows the proportion of total Hispanic clients that applied for the legalization process in the two week

period for these five agencies. It was estimated that one third (10 eligible clients/32 estimated # of clients) of all Hispanics served at these agencies applied for legalization. Social security numbers were submitted for a verification process to confirm the application for legalization.

The State expenditures were calculated for the five agencies and are itemized in Table 3 by total clients and by Hispanic clients. In FY88, 76% of the State funding was allocated to Hispanic clients. In FY89, these agencies allocated 84% of the State funding to Hispanics client. In four out of the five agencies, Hispanics constituted more than 98% of the agency's clientele. Results show that in FY 88 out of \$307,266.00 State dollars allotted to Hispanic clients in five agencies, an estimated \$108,434.00 was absorbed by newly legalized immigrants. In FY 89 out of \$496,851.00 State dollars allotted to Hispanic clients, an estimated \$173,898.00 was absorbed by newly legalized immigrants.

The estimated amount of newly legalized immigrants being served at these five agencies (approximately one third) may carry implications for policy makers. Newly legalized immigrants encounter a number of barriers such as language deficiencies and cultural differences that make them a linguistic minority vulnerable to neglect. These barriers may represent susceptible areas that require special attention by policy makers. Need assessments may indicate the practical advantages of the development and implementation of bilingual and bicultural staff; the use of forms and education materials in languages other than

English, and the implementation of client-specific data bases that collect detailed information on clients' race and ancestry. Detailed information on race and ancestry is instrumental in targeting services to linguistic minorities and for evaluating current services.

Figure 1. Client Survey Instrument

The following three questions request information regarding your country of birth and amnesty status. Your answers will help describe the type of communities served in substance abuse treatment agencies. Your answers will also help estimate how many individuals who requested "amnesty" under the Immigration Control Act of 1986 use substance abuse services. The information is used by the federal government to pay states for services to clients accepted for legalization process.

You may choose not to answer the survey. Answers, however, do not affect your eligibility for service. The information will not enter your treatment records and is strictly confidential.

SURVEY

1. Which country do you or your ancestors come from? _____
2. Did you apply for legalization under the amnesty provisions of the Immigration Reform Control Act of 1986? YES [___] NO [___]
3. If Yes, what is your social security number? ____/____/____.
(This information will not affect your immigration status or the services you receive. The information will not go into your records. Social security numbers are required to verify claims.)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Instructions for Returning to Division Of Substance Abuse Services.

Complete one survey for each client seen in service between November 5 and November 19, 1989. Return a form for each client. If client chooses not to participate mark "REFUSED" on the form and return it with the completed forms. Mail completed forms on or before November 20, 1989 to Christopher Christian at Division of Substance Abuse Services, Department of Public Health, 150 Tremont Street, Sixth Floor, Boston , MA, 02111.

Table 1
Frequency of Immigrants by Country of Origin

Cape Verdean	2
Columbia	5
Costa Rica	2
Cuba	3
Dominican Republic	11
Ecuador	1
El Salvador	8
Guatemala	7
Honduras	2
Mexico	2
Panama	1
Peru	2
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Table 2
 Clients identified as "eligible" by
 number of clients served in FY 89

AGENCY		*Estimated number of clients served in 2 weeks.	Number of Eligible Clients	RATIO
1.	Gandara Mental Health	15	3	3/15
2.	Hispanic Academy Pedro Albizu Campos	2	1	1/2
3.	Casa Esperanza	3	2	2/3
4.	Greater Lawrence OP	7	2	2/7
5.	La Alianza	5	2	2/5
Total		32	10	31%

*Estimate is based on the total number of clients served
 in the Fiscal Year 89 divided by 26 weeks.

Table 3

Summary of State Expenditures by Total Clients & Hispanic Clients

FY 88

Agency	Total Clients	State Expenditures
1. Gandara Halfway (RH)	54	\$118829.00
2. Casa Esperanza (RH)	51	\$104089.00
3. First Hispanic (TC)	23	\$ 72206.00
4. Grtr Lawrence (Couns)	1192	\$108134.00
5. La Alianza (Couns)	2	\$ 213.00
	<hr/> 1322	<hr/> \$403471.00

Agency	Hisp. Clients	State Expenditures
1. Gandara Halfway (RH)	54	\$118829.00
2. Casa Esperanza (RH)	51	\$104089.00
3. First Hispanic (TC)	22	\$ 69067.00
4. Grtr Lawrence (Couns)	163	\$ 15068.00
5. La Alianza (Couns)	2	\$ 213.00
	<hr/> 292	<hr/> \$307266.00

FY 89

Agency	Total Clients	State Expenditures
1. Gandara Halfway (RH)	56	\$127928.00
2. Casa Esperanza (RH)	89	\$203313.00
3. First Hispanic (TC)	43	\$141672.00
4. Grtr Lawrence (Couns)	1041	\$106562.00
5. La Alianza (Couns)	131	\$ 14805.00
	<hr/> 1360	<hr/> \$594280.00

Agency	Hisp. Clients	State Expenditures
1. Gandara Halfway (RH)	56	\$127928.00
2. Casa Esperanza (RH)	88	\$201029.00
3. First Hispanic (TC)	41	\$135082.00
4. Grtr Lawrence (Couns)	177	\$ 18119.00
5. La Alianza (Couns)	130	\$ 14693.00
	<hr/> 492	<hr/> \$496851.00



